



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

---

**Contact: Kena Rice**

(316) 269-6481

**Headquarters**  
1200 Epic Center  
301 N. Main  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
(316)269-6481  
FAX (316)269-6484

**Topeka Office**  
444 Quincy  
Topeka, Kansas 66683

**Kansas City Office**  
500 State Avenue  
Suite 360  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News releases are available at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/)

May 10, 2004

### TOPEKA MAN SENTENCED FOR GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **James Benjamin Goodman, 20, Topeka, Kansas, was sentenced on May 7, 2004, by U.S. District Judge Richard D. Rogers to fifteen years and one month in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Goodman entered a guilty plea on February 6, 2004, to one count of possession with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of crack cocaine and one count of carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, both on July 11, 2003.

Melgren stated that Goodman admitted at his plea that on July 11, 2003, he was stopped by the Topeka Police Department for a vehicle noise violation. During the subsequent lawful search of Goodman and his vehicle, officers found approximately 86.53 grams (approximately 2.95 ounces) of crack cocaine in his vehicle and a loaded handgun under the front seat.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough in this prosecution.